

# Articles

## 20 a shirt, the shirt

There's **a** shirt here and **a** sweater. **The** shirt's mine and **the** sweater's Rob's.

We use *a/an* with a singular noun when we talk about something for the first time. We use *the* with a singular or plural noun when we talk about something for the second time:

*There's a shirt here and a sweater. The shirt's mine and the sweater's Rob's.*

*Here are my shirts and sweaters. The shirts are clean but the sweaters are dirty.*

### PRACTICE

#### 20a Circle the correct answer.

A: This website has some good information and (0) a /the nice message board.

B: Really? What do people write about on (1) a /the message board?

A: Oh, look – here's (2) an /the e-mail from Lisa. And this one's from Ryan.

B: What's (3) an /the e-mail from Lisa about?

A: That's my brother's laptop. He's got (4) a /the desktop at work.

B: Does he use (5) a /the laptop for work?

A: I want to buy (6) a /the book and (7) a /the CD on that website.

B: What's (8) a /the book about?

A: It's about (9) a /the man who lives on (10) an /the island in the Pacific.

A: There's (11) a /the laptop here and (12) a /the bag. Are they yours?

B: No, they're Becky's.

#### 20b Complete the extract from a guidebook. Use *a* or *the*.

**Chester** is (0) .....<sup>a</sup>..... beautiful town in the north of England. There are high walls of red stone around (1) ..... city. You can walk on top of (2) ..... walls! Chester has (3) ..... cathedral, (4) ..... castle, (5) ..... Roman theatre, some Roman gardens, (6) ..... famous clock, (7) ..... park and (8) ..... river. (9) ..... Roman gardens are beautiful. (10) ..... clock is in the centre of the town. It is more than 100 years old. (11) ..... park has some lovely trees and plants. (12) ..... river is very pretty, with a lot of trees near it.

## 21 a shop, the post office

She works in **a** shop in London. I live near **the** post office.

- We use *a/an* when we talk about a thing but we do not say which thing we mean (see Unit 2):  
*She works in a shop in London.* (We are talking about one shop, but we do not say which one.)  
*We're going to stay in a hotel.* (We are talking about one hotel, but we do not say which one.)
- We use *the* when it is clear which thing we mean because there is only one:  
*I live near the post office.* (There is only one post office in this area.)  
*The moon is beautiful!* (There is only one moon.)

### PRACTICE

#### 21a Complete the sentences. Use *a, an* or *the*.

- 0 We're going to meet Jonathan at .....<sup>the</sup> airport. Do you want to come?
- 1 I like swimming in ..... sea.
- 2 We've got some eggs. Let's make ..... omelette.
- 3 Has your school got ..... swimming pool?
- 4 ..... air isn't clean here.
- 5 I want to travel round ..... world.
- 6 Are you going to have ..... party for your birthday?
- 7 Who's ..... president of France?
- 8 I've got ..... appointment at ten.
- 9 Mark's in ..... bathroom.
- 10 There's ..... bus stop near my house, so I can get to town very easily.

#### 21b Circle the correct answer.

**Sweden** is (0) @ / *the* country in the north of Europe. It is in (1) *a* / *the* European Union. (2) *A* / *The* official language is Swedish, but many people speak English. In the north of Sweden, (3) *a* / *the* sun does not set for some days in the summer, so (4) *a* / *the* sky is light all the time!

Stockholm is (5) *a* / *the* capital of Sweden. It is (6) *a* / *the* beautiful city. It has lots of beautiful historic buildings, museums, restaurants and cafés. Tourists can buy (7) *a* / *the* card for free entry to all Stockholm's museums and free travel on (8) *a* / *the* bus and metro system.